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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: S-9

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231

On January 17, 2003
By [Signature]
Katie Zarzana

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Lewis SHARPS et al.

Application No.: 09/676,194

Filed: September 28, 2000

For: **METHODS OR REPAIRING
DAMAGED INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS**

Examiner: COHEN

Art Unit: 3762

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 17, 2002, for which a response was due October 17, 2002. Applicant submits a request for 3 months extension thereby extending the time for response to January 17, 2003. Thus, this response is timely filed.